

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE PANCREAS: ITS SURGERY AND PATHOLOGY. By A. W. MAYO ROBSON, D.Sc. (Leeds), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), of London, and P. C. CAMMIDGE, M.D. (Eng.) D.P.H. (Cambr.), of London. Octavo vol., pp. 546. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Co. Philadelphia and London. 1907.

THE present monograph by the authors succeeds in some degree that published by Robson and Moynihan a few years previous. The association of an expert chemist with a surgeon who has had such an extensive experience in the diseases of this organ, has certainly given to the literature a contribution which at the present time ranks preëminently.

The scope of the work, however, is considerably more comprehensive than its title would indicate. Thus in the first seven chapters we find an exhaustive and excellently compiled treatise on the comparative anatomy, anatomy, embryology, anatomical anomalies, surgical anatomy, histology and physiology of the pancreas. The authors here, as in the remainder of the monograph, have used all of the more important contemporary literature in conjunction with their own researches, a short bibliography being appended at the end of each chapter indicating the references used in the subject under discussion. Then follow two chapters on pathology and fat necrosis, leading directly up to that on chemical pathology; here is described the "Cambridge Reaction"; the methods employed certainly seem in some degree rather empirical, and were it not for the results obtained would be rather disquieting; the analysis is exacting and must be followed carefully or results will not be obtained; especial attention should be directed to the last step of using a hot filter paper and funnel.

The question of diabetes is of great interest. The author's conclusions are in effect that a small portion of normal gland is capable of averting the onset of the condition, and therefore the importance of recognizing diseases of the pancreas early is emphasized. Advocation of early operation in gall stones, especially in the common duct when urinary analysis shows pancreatic

involvement to be present, is deservedly mentioned. The consideration of the fæces as indicative of digestive disturbance, as well as that of the urine for changes in the internal metabolism, is of great diagnostic value.

An interesting observation is that the presence of biliary secretion is not sufficient to insure a return of the normal color to the fæces when pancreatic secretion is not established.

The surgical progress in the treatment of pancreatic conditions is shown with the report of several cases. The authors illustrate uselessly some X-ray photographs showing the difference between gall stones and pancreatic calculi. These, however, have been taken outside of the body and the conclusions drawn from them are entirely at variance with those found when the exposure is made *intra vitam*.

The book is completed by the chapters on injuries; inflammatory affections; acute, sub-acute and chronic pancreatitis; pancreo-lithic catarrh; calculi; cysts; and neoplasms. That on the general symptomatology and diagnosis is of particular fullness and interest, and is sure, when taken into consideration with the various chemical and microscopical adjuncts placed at our disposal, to alter the views of many physicians and surgeons at present that only the grosser lesions of pancreatic affections may be recognized.

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